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FACTS ABOUT BOOMER FARMS

Department of Agriculture
Farm Security Administration

- OFFICIAL NAME: Boomer Farms
- LOCATION: In Kay, Noble, Osage and Payne Counties, north-central Oklahoma. Project Headquarters: Stillwater, Oklahoma.
- HISTORY OF PROJECT: Initiated by Resettlement Administration, Preliminary approval, December 5, 1935; final approval June 5, 1936.
- PURPOSE OF PROJECT: To provide farms in scattered communities for families whose former land was unsuitable for cultivation because of soil erosion. With their land taken over by Land Utilization for purposes of conservation, many of these families had no means to move to new farms.
- PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The 40 families on the project will do full-time farming on the 5,331 acres of rich, alluvial bottom land. Farms average 130 acres -- the smaller farms comprise 80 acres, and the larger farms, 240 acres. An orchard is planned for each unit, but in addition, farmers will raise wheat and other small grains, cotton, corn, kafir, sudan grass, alfalfa and vegetables. They will also keep dairy cattle, hogs and poultry.
- Since cooperative enterprises exist within the vicinity of the farms, no cooperatives are planned for the project. Existing cooperative services include cooperative elevators, creameries and milk plants. Farmers on the project are also cooperating in buying threshing machines, hay equipment and similar organizations are active in the area.
- HOUSE DESCRIPTION: Of the 40 houses on the project, 30 are new frame houses of four and five rooms with a fireplace and ten are remodeled houses. Each farm has a barn, poultry house, hog house, and an outside sanitary privy. There is no present provision for electricity or gas, but water will be supplied by individual wells.



HOMESTEADERS:

Nearly one-third of the total population of this area was on relief in 1935. Most of the families selected for the project were destitute or on the border-line of destitution. Their soil was gullied or washed away -- soil erosion had taken its heavy toll. A survey of living conditions made in 1934 revealed the average home to be worth \$428. Living conditions were miserable and furnishings in most of the homes consisted only of necessities.

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